

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 13 and 21 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A head slider for use in a disk drive unit, comprising:
generally flat air bearing portions formed in parallel on both sides of a surface
of the head slider, which flies above a disk medium, at an air outflow end thereof in such a
manner that said air bearing portions are raised from a main body of the head slider;

a head portion comprising head elements and a first protection film portion for
protecting said head elements said head portion being provided adjacent to an air outflow end
of one of said air bearing portions;

a dummy head portion comprising only a second protection film portion
provided adjacent to an air outflow end of another of said air bearing portions,

top surfaces of said head portion and said dummy head portion being formed
lower by a step with respect to said head slider main body than said top surfaces of said air
bearing portions; ~~and~~

a third protection film portion formed at said air outflow end adjacent to said
first and second protection film portions, said top surfaces of said head portion and said
dummy head portion being formed between said top surfaces of said air bearing portions and
said third protection film portion; and

a protection film disposed on one of said air bearing portions;

wherein said first and second protection film portions are orthogonal to said protection film disposed on one of said air bearing portions.

2. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a distance in a longitudinal direction of said head slider of an area of said top surface of said head portion is substantially equal to a distance in said longitudinal direction of an area of said top surface of said dummy head portion.

3. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a distance in a longitudinal direction of said head slider of an area of said top surface of said dummy head portion is longer than a distance in said longitudinal direction of an area of said top surface of said head portion.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said top surfaces of said head portion and said dummy head portion are level with a flying height of said surface of said head slider main body which flies above said disk medium.

7. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said top surfaces of said head portion and said dummy head portion are positioned higher than a

flying height of said surface of said head slider main body which flies above said disk medium.

8. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a plurality of pads are provided on said surface of said head slider main body which flies above said disk medium for avoiding a sticking of the head slider to said disk medium when said disk medium is at a stop.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A magnetic disk drive unit, comprising:

a spindle motor for rotating at least one disk medium, and

a head slider, further comprising a head for reading data from and writing data to said at least one disk medium, said head slider being mounted via a head suspension on a distal end portion of a carriage which is driven by a voice coil motor and able to perform seeking relative to recording tracks formed on said at least one disk medium,

wherein generally flat air bearing portions are formed in parallel on both sides of a surface of said head slider, which flies above said disk medium, at an air outflow end thereof in such a manner that said air bearing portions are raised from a main body of said head slider,

wherein a head portion comprising head elements and a first protection film portion for protecting said head elements is provided adjacent to an air outflow end of one of said air bearing portions,

wherein a dummy head portion comprising only a second protection film portion is provided adjacent to an air outflow end of another of said air bearing portions,

top surfaces of said head portion and said dummy head portion being formed lower by a step with respect to said head slider main body than top surfaces of said air bearing portions, and

wherein a third protection film portion is formed at said air outflow end adjacent to said first and second protection film portions, said top surfaces of said head portion and said dummy head portion being formed between said top surfaces of said air bearing portions and said third protection film portion-, and

wherein a protection film is disposed on one of said air bearing portions;

wherein said first and second protection film portions are orthogonal to said protection film disposed on one of said air bearing portions.

14. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 13, wherein a distance in a longitudinal direction of said head slider of an area of said top surface of said head portion is substantially equal to a distance in said longitudinal direction of an area of said top surface of said dummy head portion.

15. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 13, wherein a distance in a longitudinal direction of said head slider of an area of said top surface of said dummy head portion is longer than a distance in said longitudinal direction of an area of said top surface of said head portion.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said top surfaces of said head portion and said dummy head portion are substantially level with a flying height of said surface of said head slider main body which flies above said disk medium.

19. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said top surfaces of said head portion and said dummy head portion are positioned higher than a flying height of said surface of said head slider main body which flies above said disk medium.

20. (Previously presented) A head slider as set forth in Claim 13, wherein a plurality of pads are provided on said surface of said head slider main body which flies above said disk medium for avoiding a sticking of said head slider to said disk medium when said disk medium is at a stop.

21. (Currently Amended) A head slider for use in a disk drive unit, comprising:

a slider main body having at least one air bearing portion on the head slider which flies above a disk medium at an air outflow end thereof in such a manner that said at least one air bearing portion is raised a step from said slider main body; and

a head unit provided adjacent to an air outflow end of said slider main body having a head portion comprising head elements and a first protection film for protecting said head elements, and projecting from a base portion thereof,

wherein a top surface of said base portion is substantially level with a top surface of said slider main body,

wherein said head portion is formed adjacent to one of said air bearing portions and a top surface of said head portion ~~being~~^{is} formed lower ~~than that of said air bearing portion with respect to said slider main body~~ by a step with respect to said head slider main body than a top surface of said air bearing portions, and

wherein a rear end surface of said head portion on said base portion projects from said one of said air bearing portions in a direction of said airflow less than a rear end surface of said base portion.